

Claims 1-31 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-14, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 348, subclass 340;

Group II, Claims 15-27, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 438, subclass 107;

Group III, Claim 28, drawn to a method, classified in class 438, subclass 107;

Group IV, Claim 29, drawn to a method, classified in class 600, subclass 109;

Group V, Claim 30, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 600, subclass 130;

and


Group VI, Claim 31, drawn to a method, classified in class 348, subclass 68.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV, V and VI are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-14. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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